

*The Victory Chapter*  
THE KINGDOM OF AFFABEL:  
THE DAY OF JUDGMENT

*... I am He Who searches minds (the thoughts, feelings, and purposes) and the [inmost] hearts,  
and I will give to each of you  
[the reward for what you have done] as your work deserves.*  
Revelation 2:23 AMP

Let's return to the allegory of the kingdom of Affabel to discover the outcomes of Selfish and Charity. Through them we'll learn about important aspects of the believer's judgment, one of which is that not all believers will be rewarded equally.

The Believer's Judgment

This judgment took place in the morning soon after the Endelites arrived at the Great Hall. Approximately five hundred Endelites waited in the Hall of Life, anxiously anticipating their first meeting with King Jalyn. Charity and Selfish had found friends both old and new and were in the process of conversing when suddenly, the Royal Guards entered the hall. All conversations ceased as the Chief Guard addressed the group.

"Shortly you will face your king. He has always loved you and has yearned for this day when you will be united. Though you've never met, he has seen you. He has beheld your heart and discerned your fruit. He knows your heart, your motives, your thoughts, and your feelings as well as your works. Nothing has been hidden. Know his judgment is just. None will be slighted or misrepresented."

The Chief Guard proceeded to instruct them as to how they would be ushered into the Great Hall, as well as to the necessary protocol once within. Once the briefing was complete, he announced, "The first to go before King Jalyn is Selfish. Step forward so we may escort you to the Great Hall."

Selfish and His Judgment

Selfish surmised he had been summoned first because of his position as the mayor of Endel. He was confident he would be rewarded handsomely for his leadership in the king's outer realm. He remembered how the teachings from the ancient writings spoke of rewards and ruling positions in Affabel for those deemed faithful in Endel. He had seen the community thrive during his two-year term as mayor. He was confident as he went to face the king.

The doors of the Great Hall were opened and Selfish was escorted into the presence of the king. He was overwhelmed by the grandeur of this massive auditorium. He noticed it was almost completely full. All in attendance were standing. Selfish wondered why there were random seats vacant but quickly dismissed the thought by reasoning that it was due to the citizens arbitrarily seating themselves.

There, at a great distance, was the throne of Jalyn. It was more majestic than Selfish ever could have imagined. He also noticed the smaller thrones that he correctly assumed belonged to the underrulers of Jalyn. His heart skipped a beat—there were a couple seats yet unoccupied. He felt certain he would be assigned a vacant throne.

An Old Friend

As Selfish proceeded, he was taken aback by the glorious transformation in the appearance of former Endelites who now held citizenship in Affabel. After taking just a few steps toward the

throne, he recognized an old friend in the very back of the auditorium. His name was Social. He had owned a restaurant that Selfish frequented. He looked to the Chief Guard as if to ask if it was all right to speak. The guard nodded his approval.

Selfish approached, and the two embraced. "How have you been, Social?" asked Selfish.

"I've been very well," replied the old friend, "but my name is no longer Social. It is Content. Lord Jalyn gave me this new name just as he does with all his servants once they appear before his throne.

"Affabel is more wonderful than we ever could have dreamed," Content continued. "This Great Hall is but an entrance to realms of beauty, splendor, and grandeur in the magnificent city. The king is more personable, loving, and majestic than anyone you have ever met or known. I am so thankful to know and serve him. It is an honor to be in his kingdom. It is better than anything we ever knew. If I had known in Endel what I know now, I would have lived differently. I would have focused more on pleasing the king. I would have lived as a better citizen in my short stay in Endel. If I had, I would be closer to him now."

Selfish countered, "What do you mean? You were a great citizen in Endel! You ran one of the best restaurants and sponsored numerous community events. You frequently contributed both finances and free meals for fundraising campaigns. You even sacrificed evenings of revenue to do this!"

Content shook his head. "I did those things to gain recognition and acceptance. I also knew it would draw more patrons. My motive was not to bless but to ensure my success. I should have listened to the words of Jalyn. He told us, 'When you give a dinner or a supper, do not ask your friends, your brothers, your relatives, nor rich neighbors, lest they also invite you back, and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just.' I donated those dinners for my benefit, not for the good of the community. I wanted to move among the influential of Endel."

Selfish probed deeper. "But you frequently contributed to the School of Endel. Didn't this win you favor in the eyes of Jalyn?" Content countered, "I did indeed contribute to the School of Endel, but not in proportion to the success of my business. I actually only gave a small percentage. I hoarded much of the restaurant's profits because I was afraid of failing. This was coupled with a desire to live the good life. My true intentions were to protect myself. The little I gave was to ease my conscience. I was compelled because our teachers frequently discussed the importance of giving to the kingdom and to those in need. I ended up giving out of guilt and compulsion rather than out of compassion and love."

Content continued, "I forgot Jalyn's illustration of the widow who loved the kingdom of Affabel. Remember, he said, 'I tell you that this poor widow put more in the offering box than all the others. For the others put in what they had to spare of their riches; but she, poor as she is, put in all she had—she gave all she had to live on.'"

Selfish pondered the social gatherings and dinners he held at his home. There were no poor or even less fortunate people there. Then he remembered the five thousand entrustments he gave to appease those who were disappointed with his choice to grant the land to the department store rather than to the school. At the time he had thought it was quite a bit, but now he was embarrassed by how little he had given. How would this fair before Jalyn?

These reflections were interrupted by Content's further comments. "If I had been truly passionate for Jalyn and his people," he said, "I would have given my time and served at the school. If all do their part, the burden is lifted, but if not it is borne by the few. If Jalyn's design was implemented, none would be overburdened. The few who took the heavy loads have been greatly rewarded. Bottom line: the little I gave I did to ease my conscience for my lack of commitment to Jalyn's kingdom.

"When my life was reviewed, it was clear to all that I lived more for my comfort, security, and reputation than for his glory. Now I'm one of the lowest citizens in this city. Even though this is the case, I am still overwhelmed by Jalyn's goodness and how much he loves me. I really didn't deserve anything I received from him, but as you will shortly discover, his love and generosity are beyond comprehension. I am in debt to his extravagant kindness for the rest of my life."

Shocked, Selfish cried out, "Lowest citizen! Do you mean there is a class system here?"

Content smiled and said, "Yes, of sorts. We were taught this in Endel, although many of us never considered it seriously. But deep within we knew it. In fact, you even considered this truth when you walked into this auditorium. I heard your thoughts; you anticipate being assigned a throne. You knew this was possible from the ancient writings taught in class, though I doubt you would have acknowledged your belief regarding your future position while in Endel.

"Those who were faithful to Jalyn during our short stay in Endel are the leaders and citizens who hold the most interesting positions in this society. They live in the most beautiful section of the city and have the privilege of frequent interaction with the king. Those of us who lived more for ourselves while in Endel! are assigned positions in the outer parts of the city. This is seen in this auditorium as well. Those in the rear of this hall are those who live in the flatlands. We have been assigned the labor-intensive jobs. We are the least in the kingdom. Those who occupy the midsections make their homes in the mountains and hold more creative positions, while those in front and upon the thrones live in the Regal Center where the king lives. They are privileged to live and work alongside him. These are the greatest in the kingdom."

Content concluded, "My friend Selfish, know that Jalyn is a just and loving leader. Anything he gives you will be a reward. None of us would have a life such as what is found in the least parts of this city had it not been for him." Having said this, Content stepped back into his place. The Chief Guard then motioned for Selfish to continue his progress toward the throne.

### A Popular Teacher

Selfish took a few more steps and noticed another he knew and admired whose name was Motivator. He was formerly a teacher at the School of Endel, one Selfish considered outstanding. He was informative and articulate, and he always inspired Selfish when he spoke. This fabulous instructor taught in such a way that the students were uplifted and felt good about themselves. The other teachers were uplifting, but at that they seemed a bit stern and their words brought painful conviction. Not so with Motivator; you always felt great coming out of his class. In fact he was Selfish's favorite teacher by far.

Selfish again glanced at the Chief Guard, seeking permission to speak to his former teacher. The guard again nodded his affirmation. Selfish approached Motivator, and the two greeted each other warmly.

Selfish couldn't help but ask, "Why are you here in these back rows?"

"This is my position and place. I am one of the least of the citizens of Affabel. I live in the flatlands and work as a plumber." "What?" cried Selfish. "You were one of Jalyn's finest teachers! How can you be one of the lowest citizens? You should be on one of the thrones."

"There are several reasons I'm not further up in the ranks of this great assembly or ruling with Jalyn," Motivator said. "For time's sake, I'll only share the root of my folly. Remember how all who pledge their lives to Jalyn are likened to builders? We were taught this all through school. One of our chief responsibilities in Endel was to build the lives of others. This was done by the messages we communicated, whether through speech, conduct, or our works.

'As an instructor, I was given both great privilege and great responsibility. I taught students the principles and ways of Jalyn. Yet I failed as a teacher in so many ways.

"My teachings were unbalanced. I emphasized only the positive aspects of serving Jalyn. I motivated many of my students only to pursue success without considering the long-term effects. I didn't teach them that the truest goal of life was to please Jalyn. I taught them how to use his ways to succeed in life. Consequently, I never warned them of the pitfalls and snares of our society.

"The ancient writings clearly stated I was to preach the whole counsel of Jalyn. This included 'warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Jalyn. I taught but neglected to warn. By being an exclusively positive teacher and never giving healthy warnings, I built numerous lives that brought little glory to Jalyn.'" Here he dropped his head. "A good number of them are in perdition."

Seeing the shock on Shellfish's face, the teacher emphasized his point. "Yes, they fell into perdition. Many now inhabit the forsaken land of Lone due in part to my unbalanced teaching. I didn't give the students what they needed-I gave them what they wanted. I didn't want to lose their acceptance or my popularity. This caused me to build improperly. I didn't uproot the weak and faulty areas in their lives. I covered them with insights that only served to fuel their self-seeking desires.

"Remember the warning given to instructors in the ancient writings: Because they lead my people astray, saying, "Peace," when there is no peace, and because, when a flimsy wall is built, they cover it with whitewash, therefore tell those who cover it with whitewash that it is going to fall." Many of my students erected and sheltered their lives with temporal things. I knew deep in my conscience that these were flimsy walls, but I didn't warn them. I said all was well when it wasn't. I encouraged their course and solidified their deception.

"I yet grieve for my former students now in Lone. There are some who made it to Affabel. But many of those who embraced only the positive teachings"-looking over his shoulder, Motivator dropped his voice to a whisper-"are found in these back rows. Their lives were wastefully spent and their efforts consumed with fire before this Judgment Seat."

Selfish questioned, "Burned up before this Judgment Seat?"

"Yes," replied the teacher. "Do you not remember the ancient writings? 'Now anyone who builds on that foundation may use gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. But there is going to come a time of testing at the judgment day to see what kind of work each builder has done. Everyone's work will be put through the fire to see whether or not it keeps its value. If the work survives the fire, that builder will receive a reward. But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builders themselves will be saved, but like someone escaping through a wall of flames .'"

The famous teacher continued, "The foundation the ancient apostle spoke of is the lordship of Jalyn, upon which we both know is the only way a person can enter this kingdom. However, once we truly belong to Jalyn, we should build upon this foundation.

"When measured by the ancient writings, my life fell short of Jalyn righteous standards, and I failed in the area of my influence on those: I taught. I didn't use my authority to impact these students for the cause of Affabel and, inevitably, I lost my reward. Remember what the great teacher of old, Paul, said concerning those he'd been called to influence. 'After all, what gives us hope and joy, and what is our proud reward and crown? It is you! Yes, you will bring us much joy as we stand together before our Lord.'

"I knew the truths of Jalyn well when I first began to teach, but I allowed insecurity, the desire for the approval of others, and pride to sway me. It wasn't long before I strayed from what I knew. Eventually I started living what I preached. As I drifted, I lost sight of the warnings of Jalyn in my own personal life. I was deceived. The perspective on popularity and favor is very different here than in Endel. Much of what we considered great there is considered least here." Selfish soberly asked, "Motivator, my friend told me Jalyn changes our names. What is your new name?"

The teacher smiled. "My name is Humbled." With that he inclined his head and stepped back to his place. Selfish turned to the Chief Guard, who nodded, affirming everything he had heard from Humbled was true.

Selfish continued toward the throne. He wasn't as confident now as when he was first called into the hall. He reflected on his life. What were his motives? Did he rule for Jalyn's glory or out of selfish ambition? How had he conducted his life? Was it in line with the words of Jalyn, or was he likewise deceived? Did he build others, or did he use them to build his own success?

#### A Ruler

Selfish was passing through the midsection of the Great Hall. He noticed the citizens here looked even more regal, if that were possible. Each looked at him with such love and acceptance. He drew comfort from their eyes and facial expressions. This helped immensely because he was feeling quite unsure about himself and what he was about to face.

It seemed to take ages for Selfish to make it to the throne. With each step he reviewed so many aspects of his years in Endel. He still was hopeful that he might be commissioned as a ruler with Jalyn because of his success as mayor.

Now Selfish was in the midst of the underrulers of Jalyn. He noticed their royal apparel and the crowns upon their heads. Each of them held a scepter. They were truly the most regal of all the citizens of this great city. He was amazed that any human could appear so glorious.

Among these underrulers Selfish noticed a former secretary to one of the city council members. *Why is she seated on one of the thrones?* Wondered Selfish. She never stood out to him at school. She'd graduated a year before him. He really didn't know her personally because she was of a more reserved nature.

The woman stepped forward, and the Chief Guard stopped and bowed to her. She greeted Selfish with an embrace and a warm smile. "Welcome to Affabel, Selfish. I'm Patient. Jalyn asked me to speak with you before you come before him. I am one of his rulers in Affabel."

Selfish spoke without thinking. "A ruler? How could you be a ruler? You never did anything in Endel." He blushed at the realization of how out-of-line and insensitive his statement was.

Patient nodded as though she understood. "Don't be embarrassed by your statement. Deception cannot hide within this hall or in the great city. You are only being honest. In Endel, you were concerned with both image and reputation. This trains many to speak deceptively while being unaware of their folly. Here words are very important, but motives and intentions are even weightier, as they are always apparent here. You will learn this soon enough as you are judged for every word you spoke in Endel."

"Every word!" cried Selfish. "Do you mean every single word of every conversation?"

"Yes," replied Patient, "Every word. Remember the statement of Lord Jalyn in the ancient writings. 'You can be sure that on the Judgment Day everyone will have to give account of every useless word he has ever spoken. Your words will be used to judge you-to declare you either innocent or guilty. 'Useless words are vain, idle, or careless, all of which are contrary to the nature of Jalyn.'"

Selfish questioned, "I always thought we'd have to give an account of the huge lies or great truths we'd spoken, along with the good deeds and major accomplishments we achieved." He pondered a moment, then finished, "What am I about to face?"

Patient replied, "The ancient writings dearly state, 'Your reward depends on what you say and what you do. 'So you will be judged not only for everything you did but also for every word you spoke. This includes evil, good, and even idle language that proceeded out of your mouth. However, not only your words and works will be examined. The motives behind them will be judged as well. You will also be judged by the thoughts you embraced. Do not forget that Jalyn's judgment is righteous, testing the mind and the heart.' As he himself stated, 'I, Jalyn, search

all hearts and examine secret motives. I give all people their due rewards, according to what their actions deserve.' He examines not only every action and word but the intentions behind them as well."

Patient continued, "This is why you are so shocked to see me on a throne. Your judgment of me was according to my accomplishments in the light of Endel. Jalyn's judgment was in a different light; it is the one that you are beginning to see now and will shortly see vividly. My dear brother, you will receive a just reward for your life in Endel."

Selfish had never experienced this kind of hard truth. Yet it was saturated with such love, a love he had never known. He now knew Jalyn must be a loving, compassionate ruler, for he had just experienced a measure of this from an underruler. Patient's words were correction encased in love. He realized love was not about pleasing others; it was about truth.

Patient inclined her head. "Your king awaits you." With that, she stepped back to her throne and the Chief Guard motioned Selfish on to walk alone before the throne. The guard would wait on the lower tier of the platform where the thrones of the underrulers were located.

### Selfish before Jalyn

As he had been instructed, Selfish cautiously climbed the steps to the plateau just below the majestic throne. He then looked up and beheld the king himself. No one in this entire assembly was as handsome, regal, and majestic as Jalyn. His splendor was both captivating and awesome. Selfish had never seen anyone like this man. He knew immediately no one could resist his wisdom and strength.

Gazing into Jalyn's eyes for the first time, Selfish recognized that the king was more tender and terrifying than he could have imagined. His eyes gazed right through Selfish, who felt naked. It was clear nothing about him was hidden here. Selfish lost all confidence of a favorable judgment, but he no longer cared. He now desired truth more than anything else.

Jalyn said, "Welcome to my kingdom, Selfish. I've longed for this moment. You were a ruler of my people in Endel. Are you worthy to rule and sit upon one of the thrones in Affabel?"

This normally confident man, who was never at a loss for words, was now speechless. He once felt he could do a great job of leading in Affabel, but after all the conversations he'd had in the Great Hall, he imagined his thoughts were most likely deluded.

Jalyn asked an underruler who was close in proximity, "How many citizens did Selfish impact for my kingdom?"

Very few were named. Selfish was shocked and speechless at this revelation.

The king then asked the same ruler, "What is the number of citizens Patient impacted for this kingdom?"

"Just over five thousand, my lord," replied the ruler.

"How can this be?" blurted out Selfish. "She was just a secretary, and I was the mayor. How could my number be so few and hers so vast?"

Jalyn firmly replied, "I didn't ask how many were influenced but how many were influenced for the kingdom!"

His tone softened but remained resolute. "Even your former teacher, Motivator-now known as Humbled-had more influence on people's lives than you did. However, very little of that influence extended into this realm. This is why he is not a ruler in the city. The influence that endures this Judgment Seat is in accordance with my ways and my kingdom."

Jalyn continued, ".Allow me to share with you some of the ways Patient influenced over five thousand people. She cheerfully gave to the school, both financially and through service. Therefore, all who were benefited by the school's ministry were credited to her." Selfish countered, "But I too gave to the school."

Jalyn replied, "Your contributions were motivated by the desire to appease your conscience or maintain or repair your reputation. For this you received your full reward in Endel. Patient, on the other hand, gave out of passion for the kingdom and love for people.

"Patient led a man named Brutal to my service. At this moment he is in the Hall of Life awaiting his judgment. He will be renamed Evangelist because he became a great communicator of my ways. He personally influenced over a thousand lives for the kingdom. All those lives he built were credited to Patient's account because she led him to my service and supported the school that trained him."

Selfish remembered Brutal from Endel. He had thought Brutal too zealous in his beliefs. He was a contributing writer for the community newspaper and frequently shared in his columns about the citizens' lack of commitment to Affabel. He also rallied numerous Endelites to contact council members and request their support for the school's expansion. He made known his displeasure when Selfish swayed the vote and denied the school the land. For these reasons Selfish had disliked Brutal. Now he felt ashamed as he realized that all Brutal stood for was in line with Affabel's advancement. How could Selfish have been so blind?

Jalyn continued to show other ways Patient had influenced the lives of Endelites for the kingdom. There were many little things that added together to count for so much. She created everyone kindly out of a pure heart of love. She was generous and chose in need, and she was resolute in her firm stance for truth.

When the king was through discussing Patient, he reviewed Selfish's life extensively. As Patient foretold, every motive, word, and deed was evaluated.

Selfish saw the good he had done in the king's name but was overwhelmed by how many of his works were motivated by self-protection, reputation, and selfish motives. By the time the review was complete, Selfish felt certain he was doomed.

He cried out before the king, "I deserve to be punished the rest of my life. I deserve Lone! I've wasted so much and produced so little in return for the talents and responsibilities I had." The pain Selfish felt was indescribable; tears were screaming down his face. This man who'd been so confident before entering the Great Hall was now grasping for a thread to hang onto. All he had left was the hope of mercy, but even this he didn't really believe he deserved. He braced himself in anticipation of hearing the king pronounce his sentence to Lone.

After moments of heavy silence, the king finally spoke. "Selfish, you are my servant. You believed in me and submitted to my lordship, even though you wasted so much. I love you, and I welcome you into my kingdom for the rest of your life."

Selfish was stunned. He looked up, then burst into tears-not of sorrow but of tremendous joy. He was overwhelmed by the mercy and goodness of this great king. In a split second, much of what he'd heard of Jalyn's character became clear. Only seconds earlier, he had felt such doom and pain as he never imagined could exist. He deserved nothing except to be an outcast. He deserved to be condemned; the examination of his life showed it. Now, with the most tender and kind words imaginable, this awe-inspiring king was welcoming him to the majestic city. What mercy! What amazing love!

Selfish had watched as just about everything he had done in Endel was burned up, but still he heard the words, "I love you, and I welcome you into my kingdom." He understood that what his friend Content said was true. Anything he would receive was much more than he deserved.

The king spoke again, "Selfish, you shall no longer be known by your former name. Behold, I give you a new name. In my kingdom you shall be known as Unpretentious. I've prepared a residence for you in the flatlands, and your occupation will be that of landscaper. Though you will not be a ruler in this city, you will assist me in ruling the outer realms. ~

Selfish questioned, "Rule with you in outer realms?"

Jalyn responded, "All who live in this city are rulers. My realm spreads to the farthest corners of the planet; there are many other cities in my kingdom. The citizens of these outer cities

have not gone through training in Endel as the citizens of Affabel did, nor did they face the judgment. Consequently, they do not have the superior abilities the citizens of this city have. Though you will not be a leader in the city of Affabel itself, you will assist me in administering my rule globally. Your specific assignment will be to lead through serving and training all the landscapers in the twenty cities on the continent of Bengilla."

Selfish bowed his head and wept. The kindness of the king was overwhelming.

The king walked over to a table and picked up an object, then turned and headed back toward Unpretentious. He walked down to the plateau and said, "Now, take and eat this piece of fruit."

Unpretentious took the fruit from Jalyn's hand and partook. It was the most delicious food he had ever tasted. It seemed to clear his mind and heart. His thoughts overflowed with great love and a desire to serve. As he ate, he was cleansed from his former pain and dark thoughts. He felt invigorated, happy, and full of hope and faith. It didn't take long for him to conclude the fruit was from the famous Tree of Life the teachers spoke of in class. A huge smile came over Unpretentious's face as Jalyn watched in pleasure.

Jalyn then said, "Turn and face your family."

Unpretentious cautiously turned. He still felt a slight amount of shame, knowing everyone had heard and seen the details of his life. When he had turned completely, the crowd roared with applause and shouts of joy. Music played, and some citizens even danced. Unpretentious could hardly believe the love and acceptance he felt from these regal citizens. It was the medicine that brought complete healing from all his errors in Endel.

Unpretentious turned and saw the most glorious and joyful smile on Jalyn's face. It was then he noticed the king's eyes. They looked at Unpretentious with love and warmth such as he had never seen before. Now he could hear Jalyn's thoughts, as Patient and the others had heard his. They were thoughts of acceptance, delight, and anticipation of years of bliss to come for this citizen he loved so much. Unpretentious fell to his knees and thanked the king. The king raised him to his feet, gave him a huge hug, and with a smile said, "Welcome, friend."

Then Unpretentious was escorted to his place toward the rear of the auditorium, where he would await the judgment of his fellow Endelites. Every tear had been wiped away. There was no more sorrow, pain. Or crying. The former things had passed.

### Charity and Her Judgment

The morning progressed, and all the citizens were called out of the Hall of Life-with the exception of Charity. She remained alone. This was not a burden because the room was filled with several beautiful books by authors from the city. She was reading the Second Chronicle of Affabell when the Chief Guard came to call her. He spoke tenderly. "Charity, your king awaits you."

Her heart raced with joy. She would now have the privilege of beholding the one she longed to see and loved. She had waited years for this moment, and now it was upon her. The guard smiled as she approached and they walked together to the Great Hall.

Once the Great Hall's doors opened, Charity was overwhelmed by the magnificence she beheld. Her focus, however, was the distant throne of Jalyn. At this point all she could see was his outline. Her eyes swept the audience of the regal citizens of Affabel. Oh what exceptional people, she thought. How could I ever call these regal men and women my peers!

She noticed the citizens all bowed as she passed. Why would these stately men and women bow to her? They were handsome and beautiful, in outfits of increasing glory as she approached the throne. They looked as though they were superhuman. How could people such as these bow, especially to her?

Charity recognized several people she knew from Endel. Their smiles Charity smiled. "Reconciled, I am so happy for you. I will serve you the rest of my life."

"Charity, you already speak as one who has lived in Affabel for years," Reconciled responded. "We live to serve one another in this great city. In fact, those of us who lead are the greatest servants here. We have the heaviest responsibilities, and it's our delight to bear them. It's different than in Endel. The leaders here don't seek to be served but rather rejoice that they are given greater opportunities to minister. The greatest joy of any citizen here is to serve first our king, second our fellow citizens-especially those who influenced us in Endel-and finally the citizens of the outer realms, of whom you shall soon learn."

Reconciled concluded, "My dear sister, I'm proud of you. Go to your king. He longs to see and reward you for your service to him." With that, the two embraced. Charity rejoined the guard, and they proceeded toward the throne.

### Charity before Jalyn

Jalyn's features were now in clear view, for Charity was roughly seventy-five feet from the throne. As she passed the underrulers, she didn't even notice them bowing; her gaze was on Jalyn. She was awed by his majestic splendor.

Charity climbed the steps and, upon reaching the plateau, fell prostrate before her king. Jalyn stepped down and raised her to her feet. He spoke affectionately. "Charity, my dear servant, welcome to my kingdom. I've longed for this moment, to meet you in person."

Charity responded, "Sir, it is I who've greatly longed for this moment. You are my king. I hope now to be in your presence the rest of my life that I may serve you more fully."

The king then said, "Come and possess the kingdom which has been prepared for you ever since the creation of the world. I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink; I was a stranger and you The ruler replied, "My lord, 5,183. A little more than one-sixth of the population of the community."

Charity was surprised. "How could it be so many?"

Jalyn replied, "Recall in the ancient writings that I promised to 'multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness.' Charity, my kingdom works on the multiplication principle."

The king then showed in greater detail how her obedient efforts multiplied to influence the masses, even though she wasn't a leader in the community. The ripple effects were staggering. Jalyn added, "As it is written, '[The benevolent person] scatters abroad; he gives to the poor: his deeds of justice and goodness and kindness and benevolence will go on and endure forever!' A life submitted to me will result in a scattering effect of which no citizen is fully aware until he or she stands before this Judgment Seat. For this reason, many did not obey in the small matters because they saw them as insignificant. Yet most often it is the seemingly insignificant matters that produce the greatest harvest in this kingdom.

The key was your obedience no matter the circumstances."

Jalyn then said, "Charity, do you see the unoccupied throne to your left, which is near mine?"

She replied, "Yes, my lord."

"This will be your throne on which to sit, and you will rule with me for the rest of your life."

Charity was in complete shock. "Lord, I'm not worthy to rule. I was simply a restaurant owner. There are so many who are more gifted than I. How could I rule with you in such a magnificent kingdom? Selfish was a great leader in our community. How about him? Please give me a job that just serves you or your people."

Jalyn responded, "Selfish is in the rear of the Great Hall and will be a landscaper in the sections of our city called the flatlands. He will also serve landscapers in selected outer cities. However, you shall be a ruler because of the love you showed me and my people. Your endurance, loyalty, and humility have secured you this honor. Do you not recall my words from

the ancient writings? 'For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled (ranked below others who are honored or rewarded), and he who humbles himself (keeps a modest opinion of himself and behaves accordingly) will be exalted (elevated in rank).' Not only shall you rule with me, but I've prepared a glorious home for you on the coast of the Great Sea, near my home in the Regal Center. I know how much you love water and the sound of waves, so I've granted your desire and delight. I grant all faithful servants their hearts' desires."

Charity was speechless.

The king continued, "You shall be governor over ten districts in the city. There are eleven other governors along with you, overseeing a total of 120 districts in the city of Affabel. You'll work closely with me along with the other seventy-seven rulers in our city who sit upon these thrones. The other rulers have governing authority over areas such as education, manufacturing, entertainment, the arts, and various other fields. The seventy-seven rulers, my Father, and I are the ones who plan, forecast, and oversee life in Affabel. You will be one of my trusted advisors and liaisons between my citizens and me.

"Not only shall you rule with me in this city, but as do the other seventy-seven rulers, you shall also have leadership over the cities of the outer realm. I give you charge over the twenty cities on the continent of Bengilla. You shall be prime minister of this continent. All those who live and lead there shall report to you. You will only report to me."

As Jalyn spoke these words to Charity, Unpretentious stood in the back, full of joy for his fellow classmate. However, his joy was mixed with a twinge of regret as he thought of how he'd had the opportunity to influence thousands of lives for the kingdom and did not. He could have been one of these under rulers privileged to work directly with Jalyn. He was thankful for his acceptance in the kingdom of Affabel, but he realized he had wasted time in his short stay in Endel and it would affect the rest of his 130-year life.

The king then said to the Chief Guard, "Bring the Crown of the Overcomer and the Scepter of Rulership to me."

Once Jalyn received them, he placed the crown on Charity's head. "Well done!" the king exclaimed. "You are a trustworthy servant. You have been faithful with the little I entrusted to you, so you will be governor of ten districts and twenty cities as your reward."

Then the king handed her the scepter and said, "You shall no longer be called Charity, for I give you a new name. You shall be called Cherished Overcomer. For did I not foretell all the citizens of Endel, 'To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the districts and nations-he will rule them with an iron scepter, just as I have received authority from my Father?'"

Jalyn walked over to the table that contained one last piece of fruit. He brought it to Cherished Overcomer and said, "My dear friend and fellow ruler, you may partake of the fruit from the Tree of Life."

As Cherished Overcomer ate, she experienced a powerful cleansing and purifying, just as the others had experienced when eating this most delicious food. Her thoughts overflowed with even greater love, and her desire to serve expanded to a magnitude she had not previously known. She was cleansed from any former pain or dark thoughts of Endel. All things were made new. She felt totally invigorated, happy, and full of hope and faith. She looked up to Jalyn and smiled. Then, without knowing exactly why, they laughed joyously together. This was the beginning of a lifelong companionship.

Jalyn escorted Charity up to his throne and said, "Cherished Overcomer, turn and face your family."

She turned to thunderous applause. Great sounds of joy and dancing overtook the audience. It was more than had been witnessed at any other judgment. The atmosphere was filled with exuberant rejoicing and celebration. A radiant smile filled the face of Cherished Overcomer, and the outpouring of such love amazed her. Her king put his arm around her and with great joy

proclaimed, "Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your lord!" Thus concludes our story of the great king, his servants, and the kingdom of Affabel.

#### A Word of Instruction and Caution

In this chapter we've glimpsed what the judgment of saints will look like. I cannot overstress the fact that the glory of Christ's Judgment Seat will be much greater than any glory depicted by this story. However, this allegory illustrates many truths reflected in the kingdom of God.

The details of this story are not meant to establish truth, rather to amplify and convey it. When Jesus told parables, you saw the points He made through the stories and did not stumble over the minute details that had no real relevance to the truth He was communicating.

Even so, I've attempted to carefully stress the important points of this story that have relevance to the eternal kingdom of Christ. By the time you are finished with this book, you will be able to reread the allegory and most likely glean even greater depths from the teachings of Scripture relayed in the surrounding chapters.